

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant hereby cancels Claims 14-22 without prejudice, as they are currently withdrawn from consideration.

The drawings have been objected to for allegedly not showing certain features of certain claims. Applicant has amended Fig. 2, for example, to show that the connector, as known in the art, has a first node and has amended the claims to correct the typographical error to refer to a flat panel display engine. Applicant respectfully notes that Fig. 2 shows the connector for coupling to a flat panel display and that Applicant respectfully submit the drawings that are required "were necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented" (37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a)). Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand a flat panel display being coupled and decoupled to and from a connector without a figure showing such action. In addition, Applicant is unable to find the section in the C.F.R. which states, as alleged in the Office Action that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Office Action cites 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Applicant is unable to find these words in this section. To the contrary, the drawings are only required if necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented. Again, the internal timer and clock counter as claimed and in view of the written description is believed to completely describe the invention as claimed to one of ordinary skilled in the art and as such the addition of these elements in the drawings are not believed to be necessary. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that showing such elements n are necessary for the understanding of the invention, Applicant can add these to the drawings if necessary. However, since the rejection appears to mischaracterize the section of the C.F.R., Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 5, 6, 10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has corrected the typographical errors.

Claims 1, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which

Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, with respect to claim 1, the Office Action alleges that it is not clear where the first output signal is generated from. Applicant respectfully submits that with respect to the claimed invention, it is not important to as to what generates the first output signal as long as it is asserted. Claim 5 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,493,782 (Verdun, et al.). The Verdun reference is directed to a method for performing hot docking of a portable computer into a docking station. This patent does not appear to be directed to a method for detecting a monitor nor for detecting a flat panel display connector pin as set forth in the claims. To the contrary, the Verdun reference is directed to a method and apparatus for allowing hot docking of a portable computer and is concerned with the connector between the docking station and the computer. A system interrupts signals generated and detected by a system processor causing all activity along the connection path between the computer and the docking station to be suspended when there is a physical connection between the computer and the docking station.

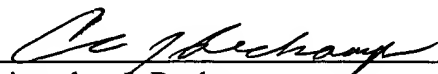
In contrast, Applicant claims, among other things, a method for detecting a monitor by for example as set forth in Claim 1, monitoring a first node of a connector that couples to flat panel display. The Office Action cites the Verdun reference step 230 and connector 42 and 45 of Figure 1 as allegedly being monitored and connected to a flat panel display. However, upon closer examination of the Verdun reference, the Verdun reference fails to teach or suggest such monitoring of a connector coupled to a flat panel display. As set forth in Column 8, Verdun indicates that an undock condition proceeds to completing the disconnect between the male connect and the female connect 25 and 30. This is the connector that couples the docked computer to the docking station. This is not a connector that is connected to a flat panel display. In fact, Verdun does not teach or suggest monitoring the connector 42 that is connected to the display 45 in the cited step 230. Accordingly, the claims are in condition for allowance. In addition, as set forth in Claim 12 and others, there is no indication taught in Verdun relating to a flat panel display being decoupled from the connector. As such the Verdun reference does not teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention and, therefore, the claims appear to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verdun, in apparent view of official notice. These claims require, among other things, that the first out signal, which is the signal that is asserted to indicate that the first node of a flat panel display connector is in the first state, is stored in a register to provide a register-based flat panel display monitoring scheme. The Verdun reference in addition to failing to teach or suggest the monitoring of a flat panel display connector, as claimed, also fails to disclose a register-based approach for storing an output signal indicative of whether the flat panel display connector is coupled to a flat panel display. Applicant also respectfully reassert the relevant remarks made above and, as such, these claims are also in condition for allowance. As such, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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